

# The State Chronicle

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SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 1890.

Equal and Exact Justice to all Men,  
of Whatever State or Persuasion, Re-  
ligious or Political.—Thomas Jefferson.

## THE HOG VS. THE NEGRO.

Every week for a month the CHRONICLE has entered its solemn protest against the passage by Congress of the Conger bill which proposes to tax compound land out of existence. Southern Congressmen declared that the proposed legislation would greatly injure Southern planters, but it had no effect whatever. Southern Alliance sent up strong petitions against the legislation, but those who have charge of the bill paid no attention to their protest. It has been shown that there are two hundred oil mills in the South—that they employ 75,000 people whose wages aggregate \$4,000,000, and that to pass the Conger bill would bring loss of employment and injury to many of these men. And not only so, but it would destroy commerce in an important product of the cotton field. These arguments, together with the exposition that this legislation was the most vicious of class legislation, seem to have had no weight with CONGER & CO., who, in their anxiety to propitiate the Western hog-raisers, are willing to put an iron heel on the South.

It is the Republicans who seek to enact this hostile legislation. They are the professed friends of the negro. They claim to love his interest above their chiefest joy. To hear them during the campaign one would think that the Republican party would prefer to help one negro rather than save a race of white folks. Now, if there is any one interest more vital to the negroes than another, it is the cultivation and sale of cotton and cotton seed. The negroes of the South chiefly make the cotton, and they are to be found in few sections, and then in small numbers, except where cotton is produced. The negro depends for food and clothing upon cotton, and, particularly in the far South, almost exclusively upon cotton. He follows the cotton plant, and because cotton can be raised more cheaply in Mississippi and Arkansas than in North Carolina there has been a negro exodus to that section from this State.

Finding that the Republican House would not listen to Southern Democrats, the negroes are speaking out and telling their party leaders how the Conger bill would injure them. Two of them, one from Arkansas and one from Georgia, made speeches before the Agricultural Committee a few days ago. One of them declared the bill would be "an entering wedge, which, when driven home, would separate the colored people from the Republican party." The other one said "if cotton seed oil must be taxed, why not tax Western hogs?" and declared that "this bill, stripped of all guise, resolves itself into a question of: The Western hog vs. the Southern negro." He was happy in his analysis of the case.

Will the Republican Congress, which professes to love the negro so much that it threatens to pass an election law that will give him, they say, a fair chance of voting, do him the practical service of letting his cotton seed untaxed? The Southern negro has not asked for an election law. He does beg for a chance to sell what he raises at a fair price so that he can support his family. He wants bread—in the shape of a fair chance. Will Congress refuse to give him what he needs and throw him a stone in the shape of a Federal election law? The negroes of the South have received but little for their steadfast allegiance to the Republican party. He asks, not for protection or for help, but simply asks not to be taxed to death in order to make Western hog raisers rich. Will the Republicans grant him this slight boon?

JUDGE MORGAN, member of Congress from Mississippi, who has been interviewed by the New York Herald upon this question, says:

"The Conger bill is, in my judgment, class legislation of the most vicious type. It is ostensibly in the interest of the hog raisers and pure food products, but it is, in fact—as we will show when it comes before the House for discussion—a move in the struggle between business interests, the one endeavoring to maintain prices on a certain line and retain the trade, and the other endeavoring to do the same thing with an equally good article. The fact that but one State in the Union has legislated upon the subject is to my mind conclusive proof that the people are not in earnest in the proposed legislation and that it is not called for by any public want."

"What will be the effect of the passage of this bill and what are its prospects?"

"The effect will be, in my opinion, to strike down the cotton seed industry,

which is beginning to prosper and become a troublesome competitor. As at least sixty per cent of the cotton crop is raised by negroes this may be looked upon as a contest between the negro and the hog, and it is worthy of remark that if the negro goes down in the fight it will be with the Confederate brigadiers all on his side."

## HOURS OF LABOR.

The carpenters of Chicago are out on a strike. They demand to receive the old pay and work only eight hours a day. The New York City carpenters, 4,000 strong, have passed a resolution that on and after the first Monday in May they will work but eight hours per day and stand by the price of \$3.50 for each day's work. There was long and continued discussion before the resolution was adopted, some of the more conservative of them believing it was unwise to make the demand at this time. But it passed by a vote of 724 to 175, and was then made unanimous. If the employers refuse to make the reduction in the hours for work, there will be a strike.

"Eight hours for work. Eight hours for rest. Eight hours for what we will" is the shibboleth of the intelligent and earnest men who are seeking to have their hours of labor decreased. And they will finally win the fight though they may have to suffer privations during the contest.

The CHRONICLE is in thorough sympathy with every effort made to shorten the hours of labor so that there may be time for the toilers to take recreation and time for reading and cultivating their minds. We do not believe, however, that the demand ought to be unreasonable or that it ought to seek to effect radical changes. It may be that in New York the conditions are such that an eight hour rule can be enforced without hardship or injustice to employers. This question of how many hours men work must be settled by every community and trade for itself. What is just and wise in New York might be unjust and ruinous in North Carolina. If by skill, men can do as much work in eight hours as they formerly did in ten or twelve, the hours of labor ought to be reduced. The question is not so much one of the number of hours men labor as of the amount of work they accomplish. The world has treated the toilers unfairly, in that, though men have become more skillful and labor-saving machinery has made work easier, the mechanics, operatives and toilers have not generally been given as much release from the long hours of wearing toil as employers ought to have given them. The fruits of skill and invention have gone into the hands of capital, whereas, in all justice, they ought to have been divided between labor and capital.

In North Carolina the hours of labor in large factories and other manufacturing establishments, as well as some stores and shops, are too many. There are factories and other establishments where men, women and children are required to work twelve hours a day, and sometimes more. This is too much. No man whose work is laborious, and keeps him constantly on a tension, ought to work over ten hours a day, and certainly no woman or child ought to work longer. We can expect little intellectual development, and little moral advancement, when men and women and children are kept constantly at hard labor twelve hours a day. It makes them machines. It wears out their life. It kills their aspirations. It prevents study or time for reflection. In North Carolina we must insist upon a reduction of hours, and in so doing there ought to be, first, a reduction to eleven hours, and then to ten. Less hours of labor than ten are not practicable, and would ruin employers, and here in North Carolina need not be entertained.

## A VIEW OF THE NEGRO QUESTION.

Bishop Turner, the well known negro Bishop, made a speech in Boston last week in which he told his hearers plainly that he was in favor of the Butler bill asking Congress to appropriate \$50,000,000 to aid the negroes to leave the South. He said that the nation really owes the negroes about \$40,000,000 to compensate them for their labor during slavery times, and should appropriate that amount to establish them in a country of their own. He has no faith in the future of the negroes in America, but admits that they are getting along pretty well in the South. He fears that workmen from the North will influence Southern workmen so that they will in time refuse to work with the negroes, but he looks for no such ostracism as prevails in the North. He says that all self-respecting negroes ought to want to leave the United States and go where they can found a nation in which they will not be regarded as inferiors. He believes that the negro needs to have self respect more than anything else, and that if he had it he would not stay here where the word "back" has come to mean something bad or inferior. He puts this part of his argument in the strongest possible way, and urges the negro to cultivate self respect above everything else. When they get that, he is persuaded, they will be anxious to go to Africa.

The Maxton Union wants the Congressional Convention of the Sixth, and the Judicial Convention of the Seventh district held in that place. Laurinburg also wants the Congressional Convention.

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FOUR-BUTTON SUEDE GLOVES!  
65c., worth 90c.

Eight-Button Length Mousquetaire Suede Gloves.  
85 cents, worth \$1.25.

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28 inches long, French perforated, \$2.25, worth \$3.00.

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Sugar-cured Hams, Shoulders and Strips, N. C. cured Hams and Bacon.

Best brands of Flour and Meal, Sugars, Coffees and Teas.

Best grades of Syrup and New Crop Molasses always on hand.

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For anything in the Grocery or Produce line, give me a call and I will please you both in quality and price. Prompt delivery.

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Showing estimated cost and Profit in seven years of ten shares.

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